

BLONDIE



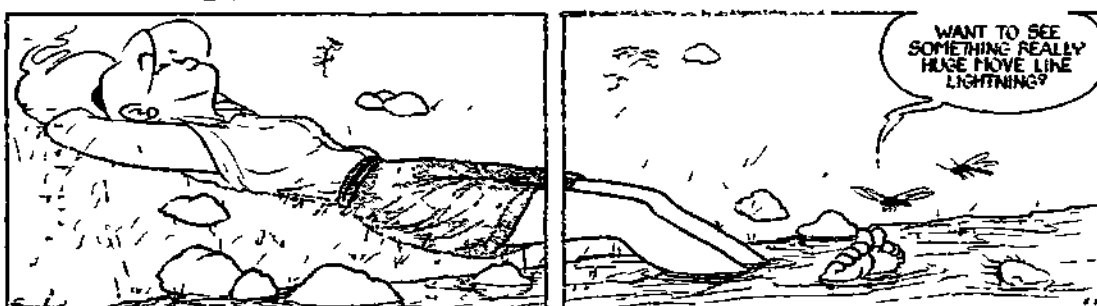
SALLY FORTH



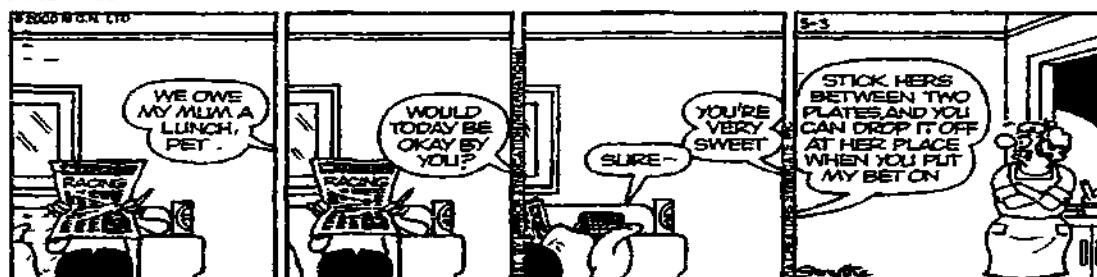
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



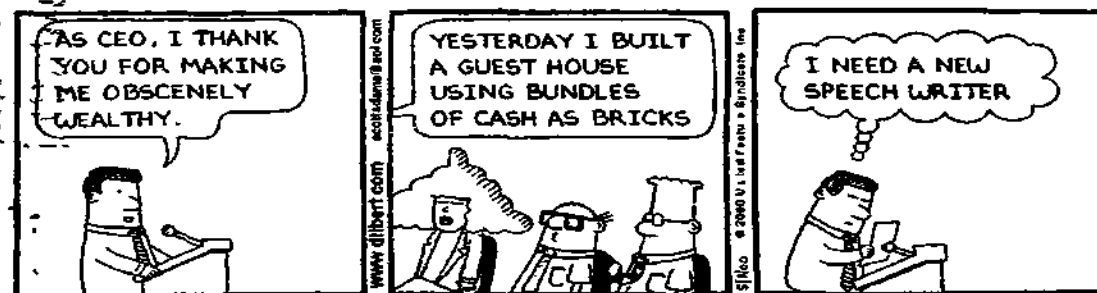
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



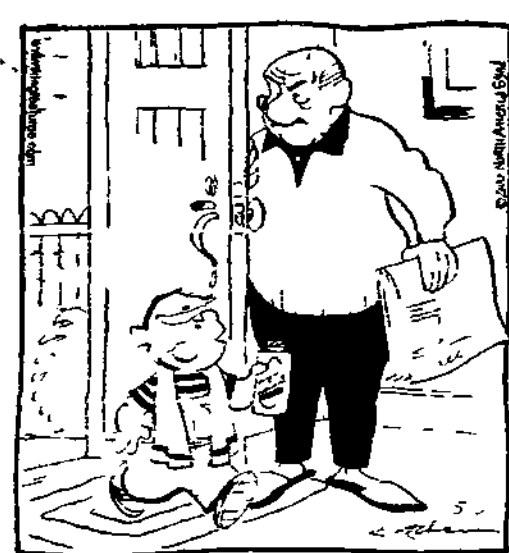
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



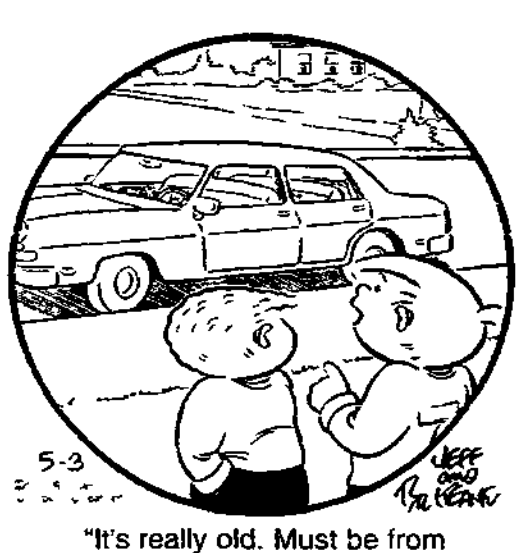
DILBERT



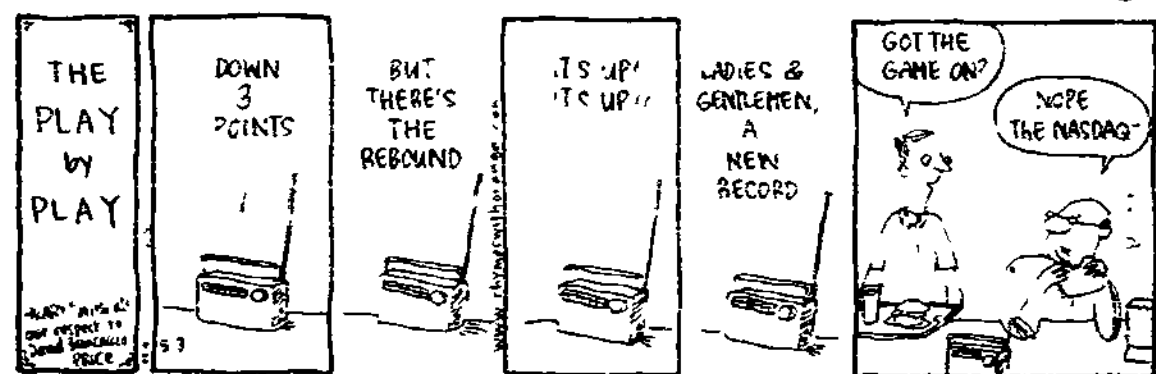
DENNIS THE MENACE



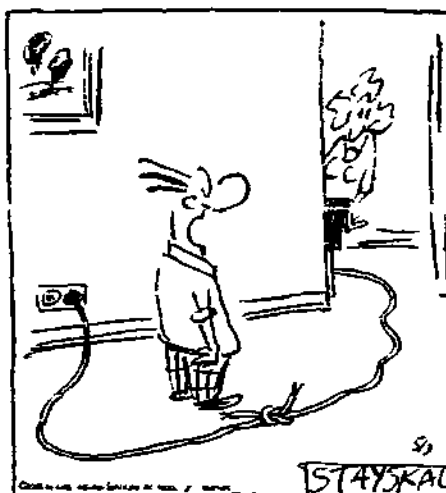
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

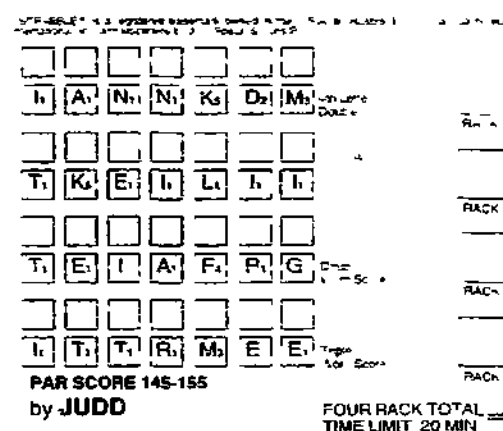
Broadway librettist Betty Comden is 81. Folk singer Pete Seeger is 81. Country singer Dave Dudley is 72. Singer James Brown is 71. Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 64. Singer Frankie Valli is 63. Sports announcer Greg Gumbel is 54. Singer Christopher Cross is 49. Country musician Cactus Moser is 43. Country singer Shane Minor is 32. Actress Jill Berard (Hiller and Diller) is 10.

I NEED HELP



Athos, Porthos, and Aramis: the early years.

SCRABBLE



For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, May 4

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A lot of patience is required of you if you are to get through the day.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You emerge from your deep sleep with an abundance of energy. You can accomplish almost anything you set your mind to!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It might be tough, but you can jump the hurdles if you really want to.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Spending time with friends in a party atmosphere is just what you need to relax.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Your ego has a mind of its own, and if you aren't careful it could ruin your professional reputation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your philosophies are put to the test, but you have the power to explain yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) As the moon moves into Taurus, you are exposed to new experiences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It won't do you any good to hide underneath your shell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The answers might be in the smaller details rather than the big picture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Let yourself go. There is so much that you have yet to experience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You find yourself stuck at a family gathering. It might do some good to listen to stories of an older relative — much can be learned from another's mistakes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Beautiful words find their way to you. Be prepared to receive poems and love letters.

WORD SLEUTH

THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH

SEBYGVSPBMJHEBY
VTQOLOIGDLBYWTR
PMERIWDEBRABKYI
FDBYSWUGYSQDVBO
MKIFTDSBNEZIEIXW
USSPORCUPINERSQ
ONNLVJHPTOPFDC
AFIREDIPSCZEMYW
VSDAOTTISAAQEYP
NLKIHOFREWCCLM
BTNIAPTEWZYWVUS

Tuesday's unlisted clue: CHURCH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: DESERT PLANT

Barbed wire My money Sleeping dog Toads
Bee Poison ivy Spider Wasp
Blades Porcupine Snake Wet paint
Fire Razor Thorns

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For solution, see Classified

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

How did you make the game on board seven? I couldn't handle the nasty trump break and went one down. Patience my friend patience. You had nothing to lose by being patient. The impatient player won dummy's heart ace and led a club to his ace and conceded a club. His aim was to ensure a club ruff in dummy, giving him 10 sure winners if he didn't lose a trump trick. East took the second club and switched to trumps, but South won and scored his club ruff. Unfortunately, the second part of his plan didn't work as well as the first. West's unexpected trump trick together with three minor-suit winners, added up to one down. The patient South saw little need to ruff a club immediately. Instead, he ruffed a heart at trick two. Next, he cashed his club ace and surrendered a club. And when East returned a trump, South won his ace and ruffed his club loser. When South ruffed another heart from dummy and cashed his spade king, he discovered he had a trump loser. Taking his last chance to make his game, South led a diamond to dummy's ace and led dummy's last heart. As expected (West's lead marked him with the jack), South scored another ruff, giving him game rubber and 100 honors. Sometimes a solid-looking trump suit may not be as solid as it appears.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0322

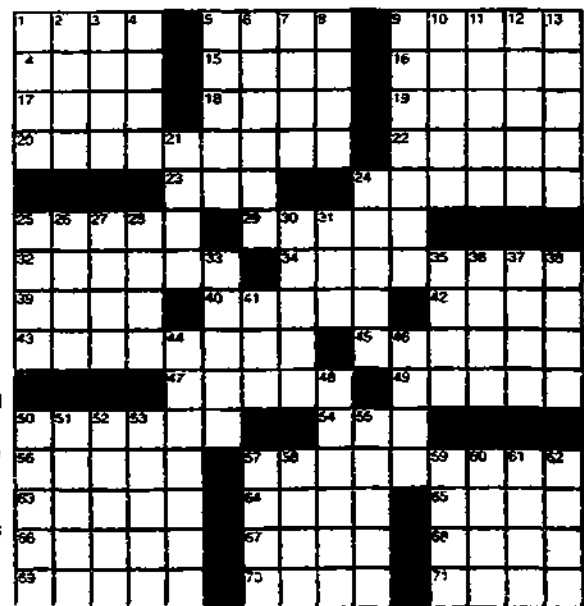
- ACROSS**
- It's in a jam
 - Schoolmarmish
 - Outback Bowl city
 - To boot
 - NBC host
 - N.B.A. star called "The Stack"
 - Stout ingredient
 - Regarding
 - Hardly cutting-edge
 - Computer business?
 - Bit of color
 - Gustafson Paul
 - Spinning specialist
 - Rifle attachment
 - Show place
 - NATO members
 - Nature of cyberspace?
 - Wash out
 - Center
 - Suffr with buck
 - Combining on the Internet?
 - Risk
 - Synthetic fiber
 - Tetra- plus one
 - Say
 - Bolton bear
 - Chili rating unit?
 - What makes people write LOL?
 - Christina Applegate sitcom
 - Litter's littiest
 - Name that rings a bell?
 - Writer Chekhov
 - Manger visitors
 - Star music
 - Doesn't possess
 - Gulf of the coast of Yemen
 - Feel sure about

DOWN

- Woman of rank
- Haakon's royal successor
- Down's capital
- Unw. marchers
- Part of a service
- Put up a fight
- Division word
- Phobos, to Mars
- Mexican munchie
- Opposition
- Had in mind
- Satchel in Cooperstown
- Birch relative
- Sneller at sea
- Kind of serum
- Cracker's target
- Symbol of happiness
- Ye follower
- Place for a shore dinner
- Alternative to a fence

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

AMPS DUOS STASH
MAIL ANNE CARTE
EDDA DIEM OXBOW
BEGTHEQUESTION
ADIEUUPSET RED
SON MAE TEY EAR
DOS EEEK BAGS
BORROWTROUBLE
DAVY COS UMS
ENE SIR STP SPA
FIR YASSO EATIT
STEALTHIROBASE
ATILT OILY ORCA
FEMME FREE VEES
TRESS FEDS ESSE



Puzzle by Richard Silveri

- 51 "Mania" (old tune)
- 52 Brng's pair
- 53 Gasoline may make it go
- 55 Protest of a sort
- 57 Witty Bombeck
- 58 Campus area
- 59 Picnic spot
- 60 Russian Everyman
- 61 Canceled to NASA
- 62 Nibble away

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7 ACROSS